



## **Iowa Range**

statewide

## **Bibliography**

Iowa Department of Natural Resources. 2001.  
*Biodiversity of Iowa: Aquatic Habitats* CD-ROM.

## **common cattail**

*Typha latifolia*

Kingdom: Plantae  
Division/Phylum: Anthophyta - flowering  
plants

## **Features**

Common cattail is a perennial herb with creeping underground stems. The plant may grow to 10 feet tall. The smooth leaves are elongate, pointed at the tip, and more than one-half inch wide. Many tiny flowers are crowded together in dense spikes. The male flowers are located above the female flowers on the same spike.

## **Natural History**

Common cattail lives in marshes and other wet areas. It flowers from June through September and is the food source for several types of wildlife. Few plants have been more widely used as food.

## **Habitats**

Mississippi River; Missouri River; natural lakes and prairie marshes; interior rivers and streams; constructed lakes, ponds, and reservoirs; wet prairies and fens

## **Iowa Status**

common; native